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Application of an intergovernmental organization for observer status with the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 30 January 2006 from the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I am pleased to write to you as Chair of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development to request your support in registering the Forum as an intergovernmental organization with the status of permanent observer with the Economic and Social Council.

The Forum is a voluntary intergovernmental organization established as a partnership linked to the 2002 World Summit in Johannesburg. Its objective is to enhance and promote the contribution of the mining, minerals and metals sector to sustainable development. The Forum promotes the sharing of lessons learned so that other countries can better succeed in meeting the challenges posed by mineral development.

The leading theme of the Forum programme of work is to enhance capacity for governance in the mining and metals sector in response to the priorities set in the Johannesburg Plan of Action for the sector. The Forum will play a key role in informing the Commission on Sustainable Development in advance of its 2010 review of progress on sectoral priorities contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Action. Your officials can find more information on the Forum and its inaugural meeting on the Forum website at www.globaldialogue.info. Canada has agreed to host the secretariat of the Forum for a period of five years.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a personal message to the inaugural meeting in November 2005 to express his support for this initiative. I have

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attached a copy of my report on the meeting for your information.* Most of the Forum's 33 members are developing countries, 20 of them in Africa.

The Forum already enjoys support from a number of United Nations organizations. The November inaugural meeting at Geneva was co-hosted with UNCTAD, with assistance from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Bank and other donors. The terms of reference of the Forum provide the status of permanent observer to all United Nations agencies. Several of them attended the inaugural meeting.

There is a large array of agencies under the Economic and Social Council with mandates that are relevant to the objectives of the Forum as well as to the needs of the members of the Forum. The status of permanent observer would allow the Forum to participate in relevant activities of the Economic and Social Council agencies and to gather the information requested by its members and, if applicable, inform the debates of those agencies on the views and interests of its members.

I will be pleased to provide any additional information you may require.

(*Signed*) Gary **Nash**
Chair of the Forum

* The report referred to is deposited with the Economic and Social Council secretariat and may be examined by Member States upon request.